और समय-समय पर आयातों एवं निर्यातों पर से प्रतिबंध हटाये गये हैं। 1998-99 और 1999-2000 के नीति वर्षों के शामिल करते हुए मार्च, 1998 और 31 मार्च 1999 के बीच की अवधि के दौरान छः अंकीय स्तर की 1103 मदों को हटा कर आयातों की मुक्त सूची के अन्तर्गत लाया गया है।

जहां तक निर्यातों का संबंध है, अधिकांश मदों का मुक्त रूप से निर्यात किया जाता है। परिणामतः उपर्युक्त अवधि के दौरान केवल छः मदों पर मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंधों में ढील दी गई है। आज की स्थिति के अनुसार अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय करारों के अन्तर्गत प्रतिबंधित मदों के अलावा, केवल 112 मदें निर्यात के लिए प्रतिबंधित की गई हैं।

जब मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंध हटाये जाते हैं तो आयातों में अवश्यभावी वृद्धि नहीं होती है। ऐसे प्रतिबंधों को समाप्त करने के कारण आयात केवल बाजारगत स्थिति की प्रतिक्रिया में किए जाएंगे और न कि आनुमानिक लाभों के लिए। इसी प्रकार मुक्त आयातों से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कीमतों पर आयातित कच्ची सामग्री और संघटकों की आसान उपलब्धता के कारण कुछ हद तक निर्यात में वृद्धि भी होती है।

समूचे विश्व में आयातों को विनियमित करने के लिए मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंधों की अपेक्षा टैरिफों को एक कारगर और पारदर्शी क्रिया-विधि समझा जाता है। डब्ल्यू टी ओ का एक सदस्य होने के नाते, भारत मात्रात्मक प्रतिबंधों के टैरिफीकरण के लिए बाध्य है।

Ban on Experiments on Animals

*384. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that her Ministry has banned the experiments on animals by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), an institute functioning under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the adverse impact of this step on the work of medical research and experimentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In order to ensure compliance with the Provisions of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 and provide a humane treatment to animals being used for experiments, it has been decided to promulgate the "Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998" which made it mandatory for all establishments performing experiments on animals to register with the "Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA)" and follow minimum standards of service prescribed in the rules. The Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Calcutta was reported not following the above rules and as such has been asked to follow the above mentioned rules only.

(c) The objections/suggestions raised have been considered and resolved by Sub-Committee consisting of eminent scientists and representatives of animal welfare organisations and as such the rules will not adversely affect the work of medical research and experimentations.

Express Highway from Calcutta to Guwahati

*385. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Commerce has recommended a six lane Express Highway from Calcutta to Guwahati and then to Jairampur to connect stilwell road for the purpose of development of commerce of North East Region with China and Myanmar; and

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any decision to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Government have recently announced the construction of a four-lane / six-lane East West corridor. This will partly cover the said route from Dalkola-Siliguri to Guwahati. Connectivity of National Highway to the said corridor is separately under consideration.

Indore Habitat Project

*386. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Indore Habitat Project" has been a commendable success and has brought about a tremendous change in Indore's Urban scape;

(b) whether Government are aware that the project has won International acclaim and secured the Aga Khan Award for 1998 for excellence in architecture; and

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals with Government to recommend similar projects for implementation for the improvement of other towns and cities in India?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the ODA-UK Government assisted Indore Habitat Improvement Project has been a commendable success and has brought about tremendous change in the improvement of 174 slums of Indore, in which community development and health programmes were implemented which include 148 slums where physical upgradation of infrastructure has been done.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Presently, DFID (formerly ODA)-UK Government is assisting three projects for Slum Development at Calcutta, Cuttack and Cochin and another project to cover 32 class-I towns in Andhra Pradesh is in the the pipe-line.

Revision in the System of Royalty

*387. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to streamline the existing system of departmentally fixing of rates of royalty;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a statutory body of experts to revise rates of royalty;

(c) whether a decision has been taken to revise the rates of royalty for lignite every three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not revising the rate since 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of 3 years. There is no proposal to set up a statutory body of experts to revise rates of royalty. However, a study group representing all interested sections is constituted to recommend the revision in the royalty rates periodcially.

Before the last revision of royalty rates on major minerals (others than Coal and Lignite) which was notified on 11.4.97, the Central Government had constituted a Study Group which had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also has consultations with the State Governments and the Mining Industry before submitting its report to the Government. After considering the